Modernisation of Jaipur Airport

172. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL. AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Airports in the country which are being upgraded to international standards with all modern facilities during 1998-99;

(b) whether Government have decided to upgrade Jaipur Airport to the above standard; and

(c) if so, the likely cost of modernisation of Jaipur Airport keeping in view the present day facilities to be made available there?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIA TION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) In the 9th Five Year Plan period. Air ports Authority of India has plans to upgrade Amritsar, Ahmedabad, Guwahati, Hyderabad and Bangalore air-ports to international standards. However, during 1998-99 AAI has drawn up detailed plans for developing Amritsar Airport to international standards.

(b) and (c) Facilities for operation of limited international chartered flights are already available at Jaipur Airport.

Domestic Air Traffic Passenger Growth

173. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the targets set for air traffic passenger growth in the domestic aviation industry for the Ninth Plan period;

(b) the targets set up achieved during the Eighth Plan period;

(c) the reasons for not achieving the targets of air traffic passenger growth;

(d) the target set for 1998-99; and

(e) how Government propose to improve the passenger growth?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No specific targets are set in this regard. Two studies are available. A Committee was set up in September, 1993 under the Planning Commission to estimate domestic air traffic growth till 2000 AD. This Committee in its report of March 1994, had indicated 3 market scenarios: conservative growth rate at 10.0%, most likely growth at 12.5% and optimistic growth at 14.0%. It had projected overall domestic passenger market to reach a volume of 22.8 million passenger per annum by 2000 AD at most likely growth of 12.5% and 19.5 million passenger at conservative growth rate of 10.0%. In April 1996, "Foundation for Aviation and Sustainable Tourism" in its forecast for domestic traffic upto the year 2010-11 has, inter-alia, projected an increase of 10.5% in the domestic traffic during 1997-98 to 1999-2000 and 8.5% during 2000-01 to 2001-02.

(b) No specific target for domestic passenger traffic growth for 8th Plan was set. The actual traffic achieved during the 8th Plan Period is as follows:—

Year	Passenger carried (in lakhs)	Growth rate (in %)
1992-93	79.9	- 4.4
1993-94	97.3	+ 21.8
1994-95	108.8	+ 11.8
1995-96	120.3	+ 10.6
1996-97	118.7	- 1.3

(c) A combination of various factors affects growth in traffic; the general global economic slow down particularly in South East Asia; availability of competitive alternative modes of transport; insufficient availability of small sized aircraft for sub-regional operations are a few of the factors.

(d) and (e) No specific target for passenger traffic growth for 1998-99 has been set.

Upgradation of Guwahati Airport

174. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) when the work to upgrade Guwahati Airport as international airport will be completed;

(b) whether the Ministry have any plan to link Guwahati with Delhi everyday in a week by Indian Airlines;

(c) whether Indian Airlines flights do not connect Jorhat, Dibrugar, Silchar and Tejpur from Guwahati; and

(d) whether Government propose to take steps connecting Guwahati to these places by Indian Airlines shortly?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Airports Authority of India has plans to upgrade Guwahati Airport to international standards during the IXth Five Year Plan period.

(b) to (d) Indian Airlines operates 5 flights a week on Delhi Guwahati route. Indian Airlines was earlier operating services between Guwahati to Jorhat, Dibrugarh, Silchar and Tezpur. These services have been withdrawn because of poor passenger load. Because of aircraft capacity constraints, Indian Airlines has at present no plans to operate any new services.

Impact of U.S. sanctions on aircraft procurement

175. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether imposition of sanctions against India by U.S. and other big countries has hit the contemplated procurement of aircraft for augmenting the fleet of the national airlines; and

(b) if so, the details of proposals for purchase of aircraft comtemplated and how far the procurement is hampered by the imposition of sanctions?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, expansion' renewal of fleet by the two airlines is a continuing exercise and depends on various factors, the more important one being the resources of the airlines, traffic requirements, suitability of the aircraft type and viability of operations on various sectors/routes.

Raids of the residence of Executive of Reliance Industries

176. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR: SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether during raids conducted recently at the residence of an Executive of the Reliance Industreis Ltd. certain confidential and secret nature of documents relating to the Budget and disinvestment of Public Units were seized;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether any invetigations into the leakage of these documents have been made by the Government; and

(d) if so, what is the outcome thereof and what action has been taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHA-NAN): (a) to (d) The search at the residence of the Executive of the Reliance Industries Ltd. was not conducted by any agency under the administrative control of the Ministry of Finance.

Pledging of Bogus Kisan Vikas Patra in Banks in Delhi

177. SHRI YERRA NARAYANAS WAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of frauds in Nationalised Banks involving pledging of bogus "Kisan Vikas Patras" have been detected in Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the officers, employees and outsiders and . amount involved in each case, branch-wise and Bank-wise; and

(c) the number of cases so far registered and number of those still being investigated by the CBI?